China

**China’s Population** (20092) 1,334,000,000 - largest in world.

Nearly one-fourth of all people on earth are Chinese.

China is situated in eastern Asia, bounded by the Pacific in the east. The third largest country in the world, next to Canada and Russia, it has an area of 9.6 million square kilometers, or one-fifteenth of the world's land mass.

[**The Origins of Chinese Civilization: c. 2200 - 221 BC**](http://condensedchina.com/china1.html)**E**

[Xia: c. 2200 - c. 1750 BC](http://condensedchina.com/china1.html#Xia)

[Shang: c. 1750 - c. 1040 BC](http://condensedchina.com/china1.html#Shang)

[Western Zhou: c. 1100 - 771 BC](http://condensedchina.com/china1.html#WZhou)

[Eastern Zhou, The Spring & Autumn Period, and the Warring States: 771 - 221 BC](http://condensedchina.com/china1.html#EZhou)

**The Early Empire: 221 BC – CE 589**

[Qin: 221 - 206 BC](http://condensedchina.com/china2.html#Qin)

[Earlier Han, the Wang Man Interregnum, and the Later Han](http://condensedchina.com/china2.html#Han)

[The Three Kingdoms and the Dynasties of the North and South](http://condensedchina.com/china2.html#3Kings)

**The Second Empire: 589 - 1644**

[Sui: 589 - 618](http://condensedchina.com/china3.html#Sui)

[Tang: 618 - 907](http://condensedchina.com/china3.html#Tang)

[Northern and Southern Song: 960 - 1279](http://condensedchina.com/china3.html#Song)

[Yuan (Mongol): 1279 - 1368](http://condensedchina.com/china3.html#Yuan)

[Ming: 1368 - 1644](http://condensedchina.com/china3.html#Ming)

**The Birth of Modern China: 1644 - Present**

[Qing (Manchu): 1644 - 1911](http://condensedchina.com/china4.html#Qing)

[Republican China: 1911 - 1949](http://condensedchina.com/china4.html#KMT)

[The People's Republic of China: 1949 - present](http://condensedchina.com/china4.html#PRC)

The three main religions that were practiced in China before the Communist Revolution in 1949 were Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism. Confucianism and Taoism originated in China during the “Golden Age of Chinese Thought,” several centuries before the Common Era. Buddhism was imported into China from India around the year 500 C.E. In classical China, it is sometimes said, you are a Taoist in nature, a Confucian in social life, and Buddhist in mind, all at the same time. This concept is different from western ideas because each religion addresses a different aspect of human existence.

For centuries China stood as a leading civilization, outpacing the rest of the world in the arts and sciences, but in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the country was beset by civil unrest, major famines, military defeats, and foreign occupation. After World War II, the Communists under Mao Zedong established an repressive socialist system that, while ensuring China's sovereignty, imposed strict controls over everyday life and cost the lives of tens of millions of people. After 1978, his successor Deng Xiaoping and other leaders focused on market-oriented economic development (some experimentation with limited capitalism) and by 2000 output had quadrupled. For much of the population, living standards have improved dramatically and the room for personal choice has expanded, yet political controls remain tight.